

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract beginning at page 11, line 1, as follows:

[[A]] An encoder utilizes a coding method suitable for use with ferroelectric or other nonvolatile counters which are subject to imprint ensures that all of the bits in the code are frequently switched and not left in a fixed data state. The general coding equation for this method is such that: for an even integer  $n$ , it is represented by the conventional binary code of  $n/2$ ; for an odd integer  $n$ , it is represented by the conventional binary code of the one's compliment of  $(n - 1)/2$ . ~~Using the coding~~ With this method, ~~method of the present invention~~, every bit switches to its compliment when counting from an even number to an odd number. ~~Since every bit switches at least once every two counts,~~ number so that imprint is substantially reduced.